

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1093
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0323

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA, US
SUBJ: WHO NEEDS AN AWAKENED UNCLE SAM?

REF: A. QUEBEC 0303; B. QUEBEC 0322

1. ARTICLE IN TODAY'S "LE SOLEIL" REPORTING QUEBEC POLICE
INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST LEVESQUE AND PQ GOVERNMENT
(SEE REF B) WAS WORK OF TEAM OF JOURNALISTS EMPLOYING NOW
FASHIONABLE TECHNIQUES OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING. THEIR INQUIRY
WAS APPARENTLY TRIGGERED BY ARTICLE IN "LE DEVOIR" OF AUG. 9
QUOTING ANONYMOUS MEMBER OF QUEBEC CABINET TO EFFECT THAT "RCMP,
AND EVEN CIA MIGHT BE INDULGING IN INFILTRATION AND INTELLIGENCE
ACTIVITIES ON QUEBEC TERRITORY AND THAT THIS WORK MIGHT
EVENTUALLY LEAD TO OPERATIONS AIMED AT 'DESTABILIZING'
PRESENT GOVERNMENT...." (REF A)

2. AM STILL NOT SURE WHICH MINISTER MADE ORIGINAL ANONYMOUS
COMMENT, BUT SUSPECT IT WAS MEMBER OF "SOCIAL REFORM" WING
OF CABINET WHO HAS BEEN CONDITIONED BY YEARS OF LURID REPORTS
OF NEFARIOUS CIA ACTIVITIES AGAINST "PROGRESSIVE" THIRD WORLD
REGIMES. CLAUDE MORIN ASSURED ME ABOUT A WEEK AGO THAT GOQ
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DOES NOT TAKE ALLEGATIONS OF CIA MACHINATIONS IN QUEBEC
SERIOUSLY. LEVESQUE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY WITH PRESS TO POOH-POOH
EXISTENCE OF PLOT. (SEE REF B)

3. LEVESQUE NO DOUBT SEES WISDOM IN SQUELCHING POTENTIALLY
EMBARRASSING ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS WHICH COULD BE AROUSED AS
KNEE-JERK REACTION BY SMALL BUT VOCAL MILITANTS TO ALLEGATIONS

OF CIA AND MULTINATIONAL PLOTTING. LEVESQUE HAS
WIT TO UNDERSTAND THAT FEW QUEBECOIS BELIEVE AN INDEPENDENT
QUEBEC COULD PROSPER IN FACE OF AMERICAN HOSTILITY. MOREOVER,
THERE ARE MANY RELATIVELY MODERATE QUEBECOIS WHO SUPPORTED PQ IN
ELECTION WHO WOULD VIEW RISE IN ANTI-AMERICANISM AS DANGEROUS
SIGN OF RADICALISM AND MIGHT BACK AWAY FROM PQ IF THERE WERE
MANIFESTATIONS BY PARTY MILITANTS OF SUCH SENTIMENT. LEVESQUE,
THEREFORE, LIKELY DO ALL HE CAN TO DISPARAGE REPORTS OF CIA
ACTIVITIES, BUT HE CAN NOT ALWAYS CONTROL MILITANT ZEALOTS
IN PARTY OR GOVERNMENT. THUS, WE COULD HAVE FLAK FROM VARIOUS
CAMPUSES AROUND PROVINCE OR FROM EAST END OF MONTREAL.
MCNAMARA

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